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# British Move Is Described As a Surprise

## Some Libyan Officials Appear Unconcerned

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TRIPOLI, April 22—Libya did not expect Britain to break diplomatic relations over the London shooting incident and Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Treiki was surprised when informed of the British move tonight, diplomatic sources said.

Several officials from the various revolutionary committees of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi seemed unconcerned about the breaking of relations. Qaddafi yesterday had proposed that a Libyan investigating commission handle the matter exclusively and the British action came less than 24 hours after Qaddafi made this proposal public.

British ambassador Oliver Miles said in an interview tonight that the practical effect of severing relations "will be a much greater opportunity for misunderstanding between the two governments and, as a professional diplomat, I, of course, prefer a dialogue."

Miles said he naturally supported his government's decision and said British citizens with business interests would be deprived of embassy services.

"Dr. Treiki told me British citizens would still be welcome in Libya," Miles said.

The United States, which withdrew its diplomatic mission from Libya in 1980, has had no difficulty here in recent years. Belgium now represents U.S. interests here. Libyan officials noted that Americans enjoy almost a privileged status and State Department officials in Washington recently confirmed that there have been no recent incidents of American citizens having problems in Libya.

The British Embassy's interests and property will be turned over to a European country that has continuing diplomatic relations with Libya. There were indications tonight that this duty might go to Switzerland if the Libyans find that acceptable.

Julia Miles, wife of the ambassador, said there was no cause for alarm and that all the British citizens she had spoken with indicated they would stay on. "I don't think there will be a rush to the airport," she said.